

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-6, 10, 12-14, 17, and 21-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Spruijt. This contention has been obviated by the amendment of the claims herein.

Spruijt explains that non-encapsulated IC-crystals can provide saving of space as compared with an IC having a housing. In contrast, certain amended claims such as 17, 21-25, and 57-60 define that the control circuit is under the sealing material in order to reduce packing space. By providing the control circuit in contact with the sealing material, packing area can be even further reduced.

The Office Action states that since the non-encapsulated control circuit does not contain a housing, it would obviously be in contact with the sealing material in Spruijt. However, this is based on hindsight and not on Spruijt's teaching. Spruijt does not suggest that the IC-crystals are in contact with the sealing material. Furthermore, Spruijt does not suggest that by providing the IC-crystal in contact with the sealing material that packing area can be further reduced. It is therefore respectfully suggested that the Official Action

makes this rejection based on the present teaching, and not on the teaching of the prior art reference.

Claims 45-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as not being supported by the specification. In response, it is noted that the term "silicon chip" is disclosed in the specification on page 10, line 1. Since the silicon chip is a semiconductor chip, a control circuit that has a semiconductor chip is clearly supported by the specification.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, therefore, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

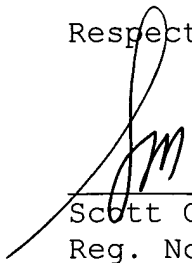
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Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6/15/00

  
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